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7 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION: Mr. Sam J. Papich

SUBJECT: COURT FOSTER WOOD
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference is made to a 25 March 1961 and a 6 July 1961 investigative report on captioned Subject which have previously been furnished to this Agency.

3, 8

[Michael Weimer Stratton, born 21 January 1941, Austin, Texas], who is a current Agency employee, has recently been interviewed concerning his knowledge of Court Foster Wood whom [Stratton] had 3 known since mutual attendance in high school. Attached is a detailed report of the information furnished by [Stratton] concerning his knowledge of Wood. 3

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Since [Stratton] personally has sufficient reason to question the activities of Wood and the activities of the associates of Wood, [Stratton] has been advised to discontinue any further contact with Wood. 3

It would be appreciated if your Bureau would furnish this Agency any additional information brought to your attention concerning Court Foster Wood and of particular interest would be any information received by your Bureau concerning past association of Court Foster Wood with [Michael Weimer Stratton].

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The above information is for your use only and should not be disseminated outside your Bureau.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

R. L. Bannerman
Acting Director of Security

Attachment:
As noted

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[illegible] OCT 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION : Mr. [illegible] J. Papich

SUBJECT : COURT FOSTER [illegible]
[illegible]

Reference is made to [illegible] March 1961 and [illegible] July 1961 [illegible] concerning [illegible] previously [illegible] this Agency.

[illegible]

[illegible] personally [illegible] activities of [illegible] and the activities of [illegible] has been advised to discontinue any further contact with [illegible].

It would be appreciated if your Bureau would furnish this Agency any additional information brought to your attention concerning Court Foster Wood and of particular interest would be any information received by your Bureau concerning past association of Court Foster Wood with [illegible] Stratton.

The above information is for your use only and should not be disseminated outside your Bureau.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

R. L. Bannerman
Acting Director of Security

Attachment:
[illegible]

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SUBJECT: Court Foster Wood

[Michael Weimer Stratton] has recently advised that Court Foster Wood was a relatively close high school friend of [Stratton] during mutual attendance at George Mason High School, Falls Church, Virginia, during 1957 to 1959. [Stratton] described Wood as an average high school student who had no particular problems with the exception that there were domestic difficulties between the father and mother of Wood.

[Stratton] became acquainted with the parents of Wood and made occasional visits to their home during the above period of time. The father of Wood, Foster Wood, is an attorney who was then living in Falls Church. Some time ago the father and mother of Court Wood split up and Court Wood and father moved into an apartment on Columbia Road, Washington, D.C.

[Stratton] advised that after graduation from high school in June 1959 he lost any close contact with Wood who then started to attend George Mason College, where he seemed to have an interest in philosophy. [Stratton] started to attend a military school and Wood expressed extreme opposition to military schools.

[Stratton] married in 1960, which also helped to move [Stratton] somewhat out of the social circle of Wood. [Stratton] believed that for approximately a year, during 1959 to 1960, he did not actually see Wood but advised that after this period in which he did not see Wood he has had a number of contacts with Wood, many of which occurred during mutual attendance at the University of Virginia Extension School (night school) in early 1961. On one occasion [Stratton] attended a party at the apartment occupied by Wood and father at the invitation of Wood, and on this occasion came into contact with the "new set of friends" of Court Wood, whom [Stratton] described as being "beatnik types." Girls in attendance at the party, according to [Stratton], appeared to be of the "street pickup" type.

After the above party Wood occasionally telephoned [Stratton] and about Christmas 1960 Wood called and stated that he was going to Cuba under the auspices of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. [Stratton] called on Wood after the return of Wood from Cuba and at that time Wood lauded Castro very highly. The father of Wood was also present and [Stratton] obtained the impression that the father was also in sympathy with Castro. [Stratton] recalled that he again, at a later date, had visited the Wood apartment, this being an occasion when Wood had been visiting somewhere in Falls Church and contacted [Stratton] to ask [Stratton] to take Wood home. On this

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SUBJECT: Court Foster Wood

[illegible] recently [illegible] friend of [illegible] Falls Church, Virginia [illegible]

3 [illegible]

3 [illegible] contacted [illegible] parents of Wood [illegible] visits to their home during the [illegible] of Wood [illegible] father [illegible] of Court Wood [illegible] Arlington, Va.

3 [illegible] Stratton [illegible] school [illegible] Wood [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] during this period [illegible] did not see Wood [illegible] contact with Wood [illegible] University of Virginia Extension School (night school) in early 1960. [illegible] party at the apartment occupied by [illegible] on this occasion [illegible] new set of friends of Court Wood, whom [Stratton] [illegible] described as being "beatnik" types. Girls in attendance at the party, according to [Stratton], appeared to be of the "street pickup" type.

After the above party Wood occasionally telephoned Stratton and about [illegible] 1960 Wood called and stated that he was going to Cuba under the auspices of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. [Stratton] called on Wood after the return of Wood from Cuba and at that time Wood lauded Castro very highly. The father of Wood was also present and [Stratton] obtained the impression that the father was also in sympathy with Castro. [Stratton] recalled that he again, at a later date, had visited the Wood apartment, this being an occasion when Wood had been visiting somewhere in Falls Church and contacted [Stratton] to ask [Stratton] to this Wood home. On this

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occasion [Stratton] stayed at the Wood apartment for approximately an hour, and advised that on this occasion he observed some Soviet propaganda pamphlets in the apartment and that these pamphlets had been printed in England. Stratton also observed a number of copies of the "USSR" [illegible] in the apartment.

[Stratton] also advised that, as previously indicated, he would meet Wood at the University of Virginia Extension School which was conducting night classes at the Washington and Lee High School. Both Wood and [Stratton] were attending the night classes but were not attending mutual classes. [Stratton] recalled that on one of the occasions when he had met Wood while attending night classes Wood talked about going to Cuba or Mexico for permanent residence, and made some statement to the effect that he would be willing to renounce his United States citizenship. [illegible] that Americans were afraid of the word "Communist" and were being misled by the newspapers. Wood [illegible] that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was unable to obtain proper publicity in the United States.

In June 1961 the [illegible] and [Stratton] [illegible] until late August or early September 1961. Wood [illegible] to the [illegible] a bicycle [illegible] or through some mutual friends [illegible] and [illegible] Wood, and Wood invited Stratton and wife to the Wood apartment for a party and so that they could meet his wife. [Stratton] and wife, together with Gail and Thomas [illegible], Washington Boulevard, Arlington, who had also attended high school with Stratton, the wife of [Stratton], and Wood, accompanied [Stratton] and wife to the above party. The other individuals at the party were of the "beatnik crowd" with several of the men wearing beards, and the girls appearing to be of the "street pick-up" type. In view of this [Stratton] and wife only remained at the party for a very short time but did meet the wife of Wood. The wife of Wood had been attending Bryn Mawr College and was [illegible] to attend Bryn Mawr during the school year of 1960-1961. [Stratton] [illegible] that the [illegible] of the wife of Wood is still [illegible] but [illegible] Wood.

[illegible] [ ] [illegible] party [illegible] attended at the apartment [illegible] Wood [illegible]

[illegible] [ ] [illegible]

[illegible] D. C. [illegible] Baker, who lives in Washington, D. C. and who [illegible]

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George Mason College with Wood. [Stratton] [illegible] recalled that at the first party which he attended and which [illegible] at the [illegible] of Wood and [illegible], David [illegible] was also present. [illegible] according to Stratton, [illegible] the George Mason/High School, or [illegible] graduated [illegible] George Mason High School in June 1951.

[Stratton] recalled [illegible] the [illegible] name of the wife of Wood is [illegible] but did not know her maiden name. At the above party Wood indicated that he was moving to Philadelphia so that his wife could continue her college education, but Stratton at the time of the interview did not know whether Wood has actually moved to Philadelphia.

Wood, during conversation with [Stratton], made the remark to [Stratton] that he, Wood, did not know if his wife was a Communist but she might be. Wood, however, did not [illegible] this remark.

At the time of the above party [Stratton] understood that Wood was employed as [illegible] for [illegible]. [Stratton] could not recall the [illegible] the [illegible] party [illegible] identified [illegible] [illegible] D.C.

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[illegible] at the Wood apartment for [illegible] [illegible] on this occasion he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] stated that as previously indicated he [illegible] the University of Virginia [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that he would be willing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] 1961 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Georgetown [illegible] to the [illegible] party. The [illegible] individuals at the party were of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] girls appearing to be [illegible] type. In view of [illegible] wife only [illegible] the party for a very short time but did meet the wife of Wood. The wife of Wood had been attending Bryn Mawr College [illegible] [illegible] during the school year [illegible] 1960-1961. [illegible] that the [illegible] of the wife of Wood is still financing the education of the daughter but that they were strongly opposed to the marriage of the daughter to Wood.

In regard to specific associates of Wood, [illegible] stated that at the party which he attended at the apartment occupied by Wood and wife there were approximately thirty individuals present, a number of whom he casually met but whose names he did not recall. [illegible] did recall that the following individuals were present: "Walt" McDonald, now believed living in Washington, D. C. but who had attended George Mason College with Wood, and "[illegible]" [illegible], who lives in Washington, D. C. and who attended

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[illegible] College [illegible] according to [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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